

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

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R 221223Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2271

INFO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, GR

SUBJECT: ELEFTHEROS COSMOS DEFENDANTS SENTENCED TO PRISON TERMS AND
FINED

REF: ATHENS 0630

1. COURT DECISION ISSUED EVENING JANUARY 21 IN ELEFTHEROS
COSMOS CASE (REFTEL), COURT FOUND BOTH DEFENDANTS GUILTY
OF INSULTING AUTHORITIES AND SPREADING FALSE REPORTS LIKELY
TO CAUSE ANXIETY AMONG THE PUBLIC.

2. COLUMNIST CONSTANTOPOULOS WAS SENTENCED TO 14 MONTHS
IMPRISONMENT AND FINED 50,000 DRACHMAS WHILE PUBLISHER
PANDELIS WAS SENTENCED TO FOUR MONTHS IMPRISONMENT AND
FINED 5,000 DRACHMAS. COURT ALSO RULED THAT THE NEWSPAPER
WILL BE DEPRIVED OF DUTY FREE NEWSPRINT FOR TWO MONTHS.
BOTH DEFENDANTS APPEALED THE SENTENCES AND WERE FREED
PENDING RETRIAL.

3. COURT PROCEEDINGS ON TUESDAY WERE MARKED BY
SCUFFELS BETWEEN SUPPORTERS AND OPPONENTS OF THE DEFENDANTS.
THE POLICE INTERVENED TO RESTORE ORDER IN THE
COURSE OF WHICH TWO JOURNALISTS ALLEGED THEY WERE
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ROUGHED UP. THIS LED TO PROTESTS INCLUDING A BRIEF

WORK STOPPAGE BY NEWSPAPERS UNIONS. IN ADDITION, IN
PARLIAMENT A NUMBER OF DEPUTIES CRITICIZED THE WAY THE
MATTER WAS HANDLED BY THE AUTHORITIES. THIS STIMULATED
A STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF PUBLIC ORDER STAMATIS
DEFENDING THE POLICE ACTIONS.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, JOURNALISTS, NEWSPAPERS, COURT DECISIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ATHENS00632
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760025-0488
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760133/aaaabcof.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ATHENS 530
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 APR 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <13 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELEFTHEROS COSMOS DEFENDANTS SENTENCED TO PRISON TERMS AND FINED
TAGS: PINS, GR, ELEFTHEROS COSMOS, (CONSTANTOPOULOS, SAVVAS), (PANDELIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006